

REMARKS

In the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, the Amendments to the Claims in the response filed on September 25, 2003 were identified as being non-compliant because 1) each claim has not been provided with the proper status identifier, and as such, the individual status of each claim cannot be identified and 2) claims 14-17 are presented wrong.

Each claim in the original amendment was provided with a status identifier being either amended or cancelled. These identifiers have been changed to reflect “presently amended” or “presently cancelled.” The changed identifiers clearly indicate the current status of each individual claim.

Claims 14-17 were identified as being represented wrong. To be clear, in the original application there was a misnumbering of claims beginning with claim 13. There were two claims numbered 13. In the Office Action dated March 26, 2003, the Examiner renumbered claims 13-16 as claims 14-17. The identifier used in the original amendment identified this situation. However, claims 14-17 are now simply presented as “presently amended” which clearly identifies the current status of claims 14-17. If further identification is required to properly identify the status of the claims, the Examiner is hereby authorized to make such changes by Examiner’s amendment or by other appropriate means.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment and respectfully submit that all of the stated issues have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response; the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

Prompt and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Philip D. Lane, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 41,140

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McGuireWoods LLP
1750 Tysons Boulevard
Suite 1800
McLean, VA 22102-4215
Tel: 703-712-5069
Fax: 703-712-5296

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